Getting Started

The goal as I see it is to creat an open ended situation that is conducive to the development of a semi-coherent,motivated, self-starting and self perpetuating group of people willing to design and participate in a variety of projects/events/classes. Conversly the question could be, How do we go about starting up a group and at the same time avoid those problems that lead to non-participation and stagnation in the SFSC. I confesse that I dont have an all encompasing answer. But I do have some concrete suggestions that could be examined and perhaps tried.

Personal Recruitment of Interesting,Creative People

Instead of wating for exceptional people to come to us and offer ideas we should activly and personaly recruit them. Personal contact and interaction is a key element to putting togater a good initial group. A newsletter or flier seldom motivates people as well as one to one contact and communication does.

Encouragement of a Very Wide Spectrum of Events/Projects/Classes

Through one to one contact and the newsletter let people know that we are open to and accepting of an extremly wide variety of events. Another way to make the point would be to do a wide variety of events ourselves,esawing repitition, as an example of the potential of the group and the situation.

Stage Open-Ended Events

Make it a point to regularly design and schedule open-ended events that encourage participation and responsibility for the direction and the outcome of the event. Example, patchwork quilt events.

Events that Lead to Bonding/Friendship/Trust/GroupSolidarity

People need to feel that they belong to the group ,that they are not just spectators, and that what they do is important and respected. When people feel that they are accepted and paid attention to they will continue to-become to events,feel encouraged to do events, and take risks(just ask any cult leader)

Sandy's idea that we could initially do some small events that are unanounced ,to which we personally invite intresting people is a good one. Also good are events thatallow people toget to know one another (eg.s Lock yourself in a room and see if you can agree, Telling your own story) Events where everyone participates equally(Saffron's mask making group) and events that use self revealing psycological games are also good for fostering those personal contacts that lead to full participation in the group and a comitment to the process.

Another usdful idea is for a specific ritual for the new members of the group. Enter the unknown was a prime example of this.

(Parentheticaly, any event where people are isolated and on edge,and ither in the dark or blindfolded for a prolonged period tends to foster feelings of intamacy and trust among the participants)

Sharing Fantasies, Assuptions, Goals

Design events/Cclasses/Get Togathers that allow people to share their concept of what they are trying to accomplish within the overall group. To encourage them tosee if their idea generates any energy and/or is shared by other people

Mailing List

Recruitin initially from new sources, and developing a mailing list from interested people. Give the situation a few months before brinigg in a whole slew of people from the old SFSC/Grotto nexus, People who have perhaps already fallen onto the passive, spectator role or have a desire to dig up andx revive the rotting corpse of the long deceased SFSC and try to bring new life into it.

Interfacing With Other Groups

New members and new ideas could be had by interfacing with already existing groups we find interesting. This could be done openly or surepitiously(infiltration). Some examples are: Outdoors Unlimited, Seirra Club Rock Climbing Section,The Beef Collective.....

The Newsletter-

I expect that a mothly newsletter is still the best way of letting people know about events. But the newsletter could be much more than a calander. I envision it as a means of communication among the members of the group , a place to share ideas enthusiams, obsessions fetishes....as a forum for debate ... as a place to ask for information and haelp with projects...as a showcase for art and writing.... in otherwords more of a journal than a newsletter...something that can incite dreams and action as well as list events. A means of two way communication....with comemnts and critiques of events and attitudes...a means of feedback and of starting fights.

The newsletter could also act as a skills exchange eiyher as a means of payment for a costly class/event, or as a way of locating people with the skills needed to facilitate a project/event

It would be interesting to have the various active participants write short to medium length statements about what they are trying to accomplish by doing classes/events/ projects....What their conceptual background is ,what intrests or obsessions led to an event or a style of doing things, past experiences etc. (we could each start doing this in the second newsletter and fallowing ones)

[This may be too much to expect.out of a monthly newsletter and its rotating publisers and editors.... Perhaps it would be worthwhile to put togathe ra quarterly journal to handle the longer peices of writing. (as per a suggestion once made by Jayson Wechter) I'd be willing to handle this on a permanent basis for a t least the first year.]

1 WEREWOLF OF SAN FRANCISCO
Players apply to game by mail. They are given a complete list of players a set of rules and a calander of days designated as having'full moons'. One player ,unbeknowenst to the others is designated the werewolf and can attack other players and make them into werewolfs on days with full moons. On these occasions the werewolf will have to ware a pentagram on the back of his right hand so that he can be identified , and possibly killed by other players. Alive and dead&/or werewolf players would be kept track of by a proffessional answering service that all players would have access to so as to keep up to date durring the duration of this several week long game. the game would end when either the werewolfs are exterminated or the human players are all dead or turned into werew wolfs.

2 ARBORETUM WINE TASTING
Serrepitious and suprise wine tasting , complete with caviar, cracker lace tablecloths and tux clad maitre-de held at night in the arboretum.

3 Angle Island Camp Out
Same as above but held in abandon bunkers on Angel Island while on an overnight camp out.

4 NIGHT HIKE/PLAY
A night hike is held.on Mt Tam. On the hike strange things begin to happen. victims of some horrible attack by a monster aproach the hikers at different times and adress the hikers, telling them the story of their demise, for it becomes obvious that they are ghosts. Eventually the monster comes forward and tells the group it's side of the story.

5 NIGHT PICNICS IN HIGH SPOTS OR - NIGHT PIC-NICS IN UNUSUAL (BUT NOT HIGH) PLACES

6 URBAN CLIMBING CLUB

7 BOLT LADDERS PUT UP ON VARIOUS URBAN 'CLIFFS'

8 THE SUBCONCIOUS SPEAKS
An evening of hypnotism and automatic writing to reveal the workings of the subconcious such as the surrealists once did.

9 UNREAL TOUR AGENCY
Set up a false tour agency that gives tours of places that have no right to exist. Take photos and give a slide show of these places.

10 AN EVENING OF EXQUISITE CORPSES (SURREALIST WRITING & DRAWING GAMES)

11 CASUALTY SIMULATIONS
Make up participants to look as if they have been horribly mutilated or injured. Then make photos of the people as a record and as souveniers Teach this as a skill that can be used as an amusment and an art form

12 TASTELESS AND OFFENSIVE STREET THEATER

13 AN EVENING OF OFFBEAT VIDEO

14 YUPPICIDE
the ritual and symbolic exorcism and death of the superficial,conformist consumerm in all of us. GREAT TITLE - BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT WOULD ACTUALLY ENTAIL - ANY IDEAS?

THE QUESTION OF STRUCTURE

The relitivly unstructured format of the SFSC was what made it special. But it Also ~~made it~~ allowed for the development of an unwritten and often unacknowledged structure, the inadvertant domination of events by individuals and ~~the~~ rank non participation. So Ive ask myself as well as some wx memberss if they thiught some kind of non intrusive, benign format or structure might be useful. There was no concensus on this and i do not have any answer. But I do think that the question is important and deserveses considerable thought and some discuession.

SOME SUGGESTIONS:

-Facillitators/Coodinators

A rotating position of facillitator or coordinator that would be passed to all members of the group at one time or anothe rhas been suggested. This Person(persons?) ~~These People~~ would help to get events togather, and assist with information about resources and individuals. They could also be charged with the job of making sure that all members had an E equal voice and ability to participate

-Manditory Participation Requirement

Put on at least one event during a given time period or be barred from participation. Contribute or go home.

Guidelines/Information

Written material about : our conception of what we are trying to do, the history of what we are doing, the way one could put on an event (suggestions only) . The ~~con~~ material would be given to all new members, or would it be available on request?

APENDIXS

1 A list of various types of events done by the SFSC with examples.

2 Selected writings of SFSC members on the purpose ,style, structure, ~~pr~~ problems of the group. Some will be my summeries of long documents of poor print quality and rambling discourse

Apologise to the readers for spelling.

MORE POSSILE EVENTS 8-11-'86

THE GREAT HOT AIR BALOON LAUNCH
Launching an armada of hot air baloons made out of bitthday candles,plastic soda straws and dry cleaners garment bags. This would be done at night at a secluded location (speedway medows?). The baloon/bags glow wounderously as they float out of sight into the night sky. Also making floating fireballs

PHANTASY SELF PORTRAITS
People will bring their fantasy images of themselves, and the props they need to portray it to a specified location where I would have lighting and camera set up and would help them to make their self portraits. Either use poloroid cameras, or arrange to have the film developed at a one hour developing lab. Enlargements would then be arranged. Negatives would be the property of the participants to preclude blackmail attempts.

BASIC VERTICAL TECNIQUE
A brief class in the fundementals of climbing tall objects, rigging ropes andc cable ladders, rapelling using an eight ring, etc. After the class we ask "Just what do you want to climb now?"

This class could be fallowed up with one entitled ADVANCED VERTICAL TECNIQUE wherein the use of prussiks, assenders, bat hooks, bolt kits ,chocks and acctive camming devices on man made structures would be taught and practiced.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXPLORATION
Impromptue explorations of various neighborhoods in the bay area to find interesting environments. This is in fact the serch for interesting event locations put forward as an event in and of itself.

AN EVENING OF HORROR andFEAR and SICKNESS UNTO DEATH
Participants are to bring the most horrifing thoughts and things(stories, pictures,articals,artwork and objects...or whatever) to an evening coloquium where through the sharing of our ideas and experiences we will see if we can reach a consensus of what horror/fear is. After this we could go out and face these horrors/fears either now or in the future. A pact signed in blood will be required of the participants

SKY DIVING (THE $100.00 ENTER THE UNKNOWN)
Participants would give us a hundred bucks in advance. Then one saturday they would enter the unknown only to find themselves enrolled in the Antioch Parachute Centers one day ground class and staticline jump program.

HIDDEN TALENT NIGHT
A chance to display those hidden skills, artistic ,trivial perverse or otherwise that none of us ever thought you had (and are shocked to find that you do!)

FANTASY FACILITATION GROUP
A blood pact to help the members of the group to fullfill one of their more unusual ,but reasonably possible(?) fantasys. A support group to encourage abberent behavior, acting out, and wishful thinking

SELF HELP
Participants will bring the most ludecrous self help exercise and be prepared to lead the assembled people in its performence. Self help exercises may be either from a book or class, or made up out of whole cloth. Only after the presintation of all the exercises will the origin of them be revealed.

(YES I KNOW THAT I CAN"T SPEEL, I NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO, AND I CAN"T AFFORD TO HIRE A SECRETARY.....)

EVENTS 9-10-00

WITH WEIRD FOOD & WEIRD MUSIC: SYD BARRET, THROBBING GRISTLE, PSYCIC TV ETC.

HIIGH TEA WITH THE DERANGED

Participants are invited to come to an afternoon, formal tea, dressed and acting like a crazy person. They must study the symptomology snd actions of the syndrom and use these symptoms as as a basis for their behavior. Their dress and actions while they are at the tea must be consistant with their syndrom and must be maintained for the duration of the party. Nurses will be in attendence.

DSM III OR OTHER PSYCHIATRIC MANUAL

SOME PRACTICAL EVENTS/CLASSES

- How to do publicity
- How to do fliers and newsletters
- How to plan games/ game theory
- How to do street theater
- =Logistics for event designers

SUICIDE FOR FUN

A party where we all commit suicide (simulated!). All forms of suicide except the use of firearms will be accepted. firearms will be banned due to safty considerations. Photographers will be present to take documentary fhotos, death certificates will be issued, and the suicides will be judged on the basis of artistic merit, authenticity, and ingenuity.

POST INDUSTRIAL CAVE PAINTINGS FOR TECHO ABORIGIONIES

Painting primitive cave type paintings in subway tunnels, railway tunnels , isolated underpasses and other post industrial caves.

MEDIVAL/PHANTASY REALITY CONSTRUCT

Playing a medieval/phantasy role playing game in person ,with others on real terrain over a period of a couple of days. The game could possibly be played at big basin or in point reyes where we could camp overnight and also play at night in the woods.

IF I HADN"T GROWN UP TO BE SO MALADJUSTED I WOULD HAVE BEEN WARD CLEEVER

Weve all been influnced by TV in our childhood. Thats where we found our first and possibly our most important role models. Therefore hold a party where people have to come as their childhood role models that they got from the tube.

THINGS THAT PEOPLE WONT LET ME TALK ABOUT
(conversely THINGS I CANT STAND TO HEAR OTHER PEOPLE TALK ABOUT)

An evening of talking about forbidden subjects. One of a series, where the first one might well be used to define the topics for the future meetings.

Some Topics

-Childhood crimes and criminality
Sexual obsessions and fetishes
-Occult experiences
--- -Cult experiences
-Madness

MIDNIGHT PICNIC

(Very General Ideas)

Make everyone watch a gross video tape of vampyre, cannibal/zombie and MONDO CANE-type eating scenes before taking off for the picnic site.

One of the participants (a shill) is someone unknown to the group. He is very clean-cut and mild mannered, and is introduced as a priest. Before the food is served, he is asked (in an embarassed, half tongue-in-cheek manner) to give a blessing. He does so, beginning very conventionally ("Our Father..."), but becoming increasingly excited, lapsing into a frantic pagan rant. Throw exploding powders into the bonfire. A sexy female shill rips off her clothes and dances madly; another shill begins shrieking in "tongues." The shills subside; the priest calms down and concludes, again very calm & conventional. Amen.

Collect food before going to the site; arrange it in some hideous horror-movie style, with rat-skull decorations, half-melted black candles, Satanic symbols in spice or icing, etc.

When they sit to eat, tie everyone together, preferably with leather bonds. Have food served by a slave a heavy bondage drag.

Set up a buffet on nude bodies.

Secretly spike food with mild hallucinogens, &/or make psychedelic food (w/grass, wormwood, etc) but warn participants they eat at their own risk.

Continuous film loop of A) some fat slob endlessly stuffing his face or (if picnic is held in appropriately grim location) B) a continuous 360° pan around some very pretty, pastoral picnic site.

Tie everyone's hands behind their backs; make them eat like animals. (Or: see bondage variation above - have bondage slave(s) feed participants)

Stage a SubGenius rite; have SubG Priest worry about the details so we don't have to.

A (bogus) cop comes along to hassle us; get into an arguement and shoot him dead (with blanks)...